SWITZERLAND

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
President of the Swiss Confederation Ueli MAURER
Head of Government
President of the Swiss Confederation Ueli MAURER
Government Type
federal republic (formerly a confederation)
Capital
Bern
Legislature
bicameral Federal Assembly or Bundesversammlung (in German), Assemblee Federale (in French), Assemblea Federale (in Italian) consists of the Council of States or Staenderat (in German), Conseil des Etats (in French), Consiglio degli Stati (in Italian) (46 seats) and the National Council or Nationalrat (in German), Conseil National (in French), Consiglio Nazionale (in Italian) (200 seats)
Judiciary
Federal Supreme Court (consists of 38 justices and 19 deputy justices organized into 7 divisions)
Ambassador to US
Ambassador Martin Werner DAHINDEN
US Ambassador
Ambassador Edward "Ed" MCMULLEN

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
this prosperous economy has low unemployment, a highly skilled labor force, a world class banking and finance sector, and high-tech manufacturing; in the last ten years, Switzerland has brought its economic practices largely into conformity with the EU's in order to gain access to the Union's Single Market and to enhance the country's international competitiveness
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity)
$523.1 billion (2017 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity)
$62,100 (2017 est.)
Exports
$313.5 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Germany 15.2%, US 12.3%, China 8.2%, India 6.7%, France 5.7%, UK 5.7%, Hong Kong 5.4%, Italy 5.3% (2017)
Imports
$264.5 billion (2017 est.)
partners: Germany 20.9%, US 7.9%, Italy 7.6%, UK 7.3%, France 6.8%, China 5% (2017)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
8.3 million (July 2018 est.)
Population Growth
0.68% (2018 est.)
Ethnicity
Swiss 70.3%, German 4.2%, Italian 3.2%, Portuguese 2.6%, French 2%, Kosovar 1%, other 18.7% (2017 est.)
Language
German (or Swiss German) (official) 62.8%, French (official) 22.9%, Italian (official) 8.2%, English 5.1%, Portuguese 3.7%, Albanian 3.1%, Serbo-Croatian 2.4%, Spanish 2.3%, Romansh (official) 0.5%, other 7.5% (2016 est.)
Religion
Roman Catholic 36.5%, Protestant 24.5%, other Christian 5.9%, Muslim 5.2%, other 1.4%, Jewish 0.3%, none 24.9%, unspecified 1.3% (2016 est.)
Urbanization
urban population: 73.8% of total population (2018)
rate of urbanization: 0.88% annual rate of change (2015-20 est.)

GEOGRAPHY
Area
Total: 41,277 sq km
Land: 39,997 sq km
Water: 1,280 sq km
Climate
temperate, but varies with altitude; cold, cloudy, rainy/snowy winters; cool to warm, cloudy, humid summers with occasional showers
Natural Resources
hydropower potential, timber, salt
as of February 2019